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NOV 02 2007

GENERAL ELECTION SPECIAL EDITION

OUR VOTE COUNTS THE MOST....

THE TACOMA FACTS

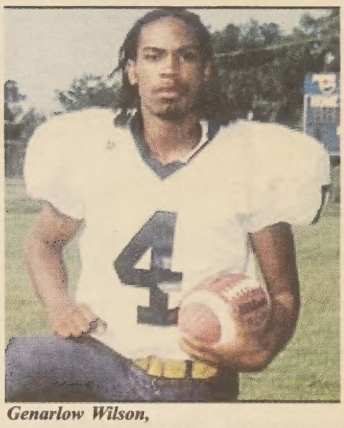
Remember to vote November 6!

FROM THE VOICE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

P.O. BOX 5501 TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98415 OFFICE (253) 383-3832 FAX (253) 295-4049 TACOMAFACTS@YAHOO.COM

VOL. 3 NO. 143 | 44 YEARS OF SERVICE | OCTOBER 31, 2007

A Grave Miscarriage Of Justice, Overturned



Genarlow Wilson, 17-year-old star athlete and top student

On Friday afternoon, just hours after the Georgia Supreme Court ruled that his sentence amounted to cruel and unusual punishment, Genarlow Wilson was released from prison.

In 2005, Genarlow Wilson, a 17-year-old star athlete and top student, was convicted of aggravated child molestation for having consensual oral sex with a 15-year-old classmate. The NAACP has been involved in the Wilson case since 2003, when the youth was initially charged with rape, working with both the Georgia legislature and the judicial system to free Genarlow.

He had been incarcerated for almost three years of a ten-year sentence, even though only months after his conviction, a "Romeo and Juliet" law was passed that would have had a maximum allowable sentence of 12 months. Genarlow remained incarcerated until Friday in spite of June decision by a Monroe County Superior Court judge to void the original sentence on constitutional grounds and reduce it to one year.

Cases like Genarlow Wilson, Marcus Dixon, and the Jena 6 highlight the rampant discrimination against African-American youth that exists in our criminal justice system.

The NAACP is committed to doing whatever is necessary to see justice served in these cases and the hundreds of others, as well as working to reform the judicial system so that our youth are afforded the dignity, respect and equal treatment they deserve under the law.

BY: Dennis Hayes - Interim President & CEO NAACP.

The Eclectic Music Festival This Weekend

Cherie Seymore - SYMI PRODUCTIONS

The Eclectic Music Festival is designed to highlight local up and coming musical talent, as well as musicians who are known from different genres of music — more specifically World Music. A percentage of the proceeds will be given to VH1's Save the Music Foundation which is a "nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring instrumental music education in America's public schools, and raising awareness about the importance of music as a part of each child's complete education.".

The EM-Fest was developed out of the idea that artist/musicians don't need to wait for approval for work rather, they can create it themselves. The concept of EMF was created by musicians for the purpose to serve musicians. It is our goal to create a platform to showcase the musical talent within our community. EM-Fest Performances will be recorded, video taped and packaged for purchase by EM-Fest patrons and musical enthusiasts. A percentage of these proceeds will also be donated to the VH1 Save the Music Foundation.

Why is this important? Studies show that: "musical study develops critical thinking and self discipline skills and improves a child's early cognitive development, basic math and reading abilities, self-esteem, SAT scores, ability to work in teams, spatial reasoning skills, and school attendance." – "music education are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college." – VH1 Save the Music

MORE INFORMATION ON BACK COVER...PG 8

37th Pastoral Anniversary for Dr. Edna Travis

November 1st—4th , 2007

Theme: A Women of Power, Passion and Promise

Scripture Text: Zechariah 4:6
Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

Speakers
Elder W. Richardson of Panama, Florida
Bishop A.L. Hardy Banquet Speaker
Bishop C. Doakes

Our Location
New Covenant Pentecostal Tabernacle
2156 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way
Tacoma, WA 98405
All Services Begin @ 7:00 p.m.

Banquet Information
Saturday November 3, 2007
at
The Allen Russell Building
1321 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way
Tacoma, WA 98405
Social: 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Program: 7:00-9:30 p.m.
Tickets: $50 per person ~ $100 per couple

For additional questions, please contact:
(253) 921-0532 (Tacoma) or (206) 355-4539 (Seattle)

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Mortgage Menace

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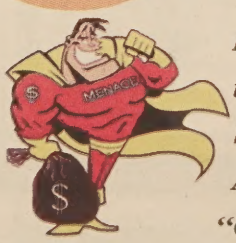
Vote 4 The MENACE

Testimony...



I was getting frustrated with the lender I was with - they kept saying it's almost done. A friend said ... "Call the Menace". The Menace placed me with a lender that fit my credit profile and on the same day. Guess what? Two days later I was signing. Thanks Menace!

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LINDA LISTENS CUMBERBATCH FOR MAYOR VOTE NOVEMBER 6TH

VOTE NOVEMBER 6TH

CUMBERBATCH FOR MAYOR

806 HASKELL STREET • DUPONT, WASHINGTON 98327

"Moving Forward Together"

EXPERIENCE:
- DuPont resident for 22 years
- Elected to Dupont City Council, four years of experience
  Currently serving as Deputy Mayor
- Vietnam Era Veteran: Commissioned Officer
- BS Health Education, Delaware State University

PLATFORM:
- Increase support for police and fire
- Believes city government should be transparent
- Develop a strategic plan for growth management
- Prioritize services and projects with time lines

COMMUNITY:
- DuPont Centennial Celebration Chairperson 2004-2007
- Board member Project Hope 1987 - present
- Active church member & supports community youth programs

"In my community work, I am not new to this, but true to this."
—Deputy Mayor Cumberbatch

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Paid for by
FRIENDS TO ELECT LINDA CUMBERBATCH FOR MAYOR

Crystal Aiken, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE ....

Tacoma Be Ready To Vote For Our Very Own Crystal on BET's Sunday's Best

The 10 finalists pulled out all the stops for the celebrity judges, but three reached the end of the road. The seven contestants moving on are Jermaine, Tasha, Emily, Crystal, Shari, Trevon and Janice. Word is that it will come down to call in or vote on-line to push the winner to the top ...

Seattle and Tacoma is so very enthused about our own Crystal Aikins. Crystal has been a contestant on BET's Sundays Best, a show that has given Gospel singer an opportunity to come forward to show what their working with.The host Kirk Franklin and judges BeBe Winans and Tina and Erica, sister dual of Mary Mary are looking for just that, "Sunday's Best". Many of us have grown up with Crystal in church or have been so blessed to have been touched by her dynamic vocals.God is definitely ministering through her touching many lives, bringing souls to Christ through her music. On Tuesdays performance she SANG in her own way. . .Marvin Gays,"What's going on". After her performance the judges once again were smiling from ear to ear. BeBe Winans was quoted saying,"Every now and then someone like you comes along. . . .We have been waiting on your arrival!" Sister dual, Erica and Tina of Mary Mary are quoted saying,"Girl, I can see your name at the Kodak Center in lights" and "I can hear you on my ipod". Let's continue to support Crystal and turn to BET on next Tuesday @ 8:00 pm. ***Tune in next week for more performances!***

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Price may differ depending on length of hair offer good through Nov 2007

We will be having a Halloween party on October 31 from 5-9 pm for children of all ages

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Ms. Brittney Moore
Owner / Operator

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Downtown parking recommendations update leads study session

City Council members are scheduled Oct. 30 to hear an update from City Manager Eric Anderson regarding recommendations for the downtown parking and transit plan. Council members are also scheduled to hear a report on the limited property tax exemption for multi-family housing development in mixed-use centers program, and an update from the police and fire departments regarding the impact of the closure of the Murray Morgan Bridge on emergency response times.

The Council will not take public comment during the noon study session in the Tacoma Municipal Building North, Room 16. CityPost (Channel 21 on Click!, Channel 77 on Comcast) will broadcast the audio portion of the session live. Replays of the study session audio may be heard Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on CityPost (Channel 21 on Click!, Channel 77 on Comcast). On-demand audio archives are available on the Web within 24 hours of the meeting at www.tvtacoma.com.

Public hearing scheduled for Foss Waterway height amendment

Members of the Tacoma City Council will hold a public hearing Oct. 30 regarding proposed changes to the allowable building height regulations for certain properties on the shores of the Thea Foss Waterway. The Council will hear the recommendations of the Planning Commission and then ask for public comment regarding the issue beginning at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Resolution would sell City-owned property for mixed-income housing

City Council members are scheduled Oct. 30 to consider a resolution that could enable an option agreement and development agreement with Winthrop Hotel, L.L.C., to sell City-owned property at South 35th Street and Pacific Avenue for the construction of mixed-income housing.

Resolution would facilitate acquisition, renovation of Luzon Building

Members of the City Council are scheduled to consider a resolution Oct. 30 that would approve a development agreement and a $1.65 million loan agreement with the Gintz Group, L.L.C., to help facilitate the acquisition and renovation of the Luzon Building downtown at South 13th Street and Pacific Avenue . If approved, the funds would be budgeted from the Community and Economic Development Special Revenue Fund.

Agreement would fund youth violence prevention initiative

City Council members are scheduled to consider a resolution Oct. 30 that would authorize an agreement with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department for $470,000, budgeted from the General Fund, to administer the City's Youth Violence Prevention Initiative. If approved, the agreement would include contracting with youth violence prevention evidence-based programs.

350-unit condo development considered for limited tax exemption

The City Council is scheduled to consider a resolution Oct. 30 that would award a 10-year multi-family housing limited property tax exemption agreement to Landmark Tacoma I, L.L.C., for the construction of 350 condominium units located at 725 E. 25th St. in the Downtown Tacoma Mixed-Use Center.

Council standing committee meetings this week

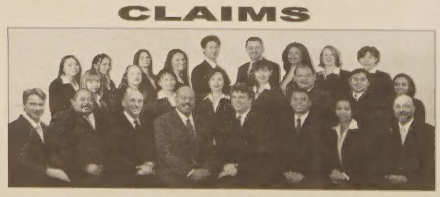
Neighborhoods and Housing Committee

Oct. 29, 4:30 p.m. in Tacoma Municipal Building , 747 Market St. , Room 248

Economic Development Committee

Oct. 30, 3 p.m. in Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market St. , Room 16

AUTO INJURY CLAIMS



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*PRODUCT LIABILITY
*MARITIME & SEAMEN CLAIMS
*CONTINGENT FEES
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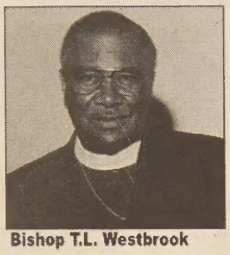


Bishop T.L. Westbrook

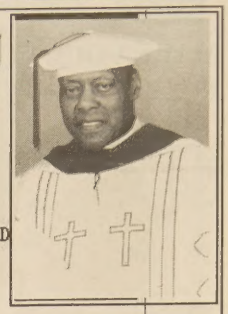
Founded September 1957 by Bishop T.L. Westbrook

1623 South 11th St. Tacoma, WA. 98405 (253)572-6785 fax (253)572-1752

Early Morning Worship	@ 8:00am
Sunday School	@ 9:30am
Morning Worship	@11:00am
Evening Worship	@7:00pm

New Members	(Tuesday)	@ 7:00pm
Family Activities Night	(Wednesday)	@ 7:00pm
Pastoral Teaching / Preaching	(Friday)	@ 7:00am

Bishop A.L. Hardy Academy of Theology



Register Office: 3208 So. Hanford St., Seattle, WA 98118

Classes: Each Tuesday 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Dr. A.L. Hardy, Th.D

Academic Dean—Attorney Phillip Aaron
Register Officer—Sister Gladys Hardy
Register or Info: (206) 725-4271 or (206) 725-9959

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Church School at 9:30am
Lindbergh High School 16426 128th Avenue SE in Renton
Thursday Evenings at 7:00pm
The NBCF Annex 200 Whitworth Ave. S. in Renton (Across from Renton High School)

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CHURCH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
11 a.m. – Morning Worship
7 p.m. – Evangelist Service

WEEKDAY Services: 7 p.m. – Wednesday Bible Study
7 p.m. – Worship Service Every 1st & 3rd Friday

PRAYER: Every First & Third Week

Superintendent Ronelle McGraw II, Pastor
Missionary Mary M. McGraw, First Lady

Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church of Tacoma

Rev. Warren G. Freeman, Jr., Senior Pastor

1223 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Tacoma, WA. 98405
(253) 627-6855 Fax (253) 627-8206

Worship Celebrations
Sunday 8:00 A.M. Early Worship
9:30 A.M. Sunday Church School
11:00A.M. Worship Service
Childcare Available during 11:00 Worship
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 P.M.
Youth Bible Study "Glory" 2nd and 4th Sunday's 2:30 P.M

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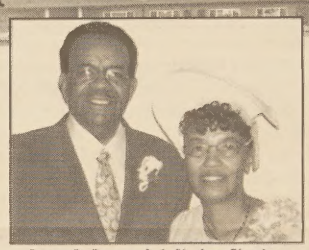
Bethlehem Baptist Church

Come Worship With Us

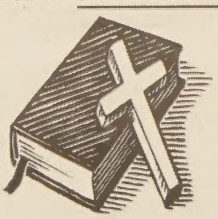
4818 Portland Avenue Tacoma, WA 98404
(253) 472- 1147 www.bethlehemtacoma.org

Worship Opportunities:
Sunday: 8:15 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.
Church School: 9:30 A.M.
Mid-Week Services:
Wednesday Bible Study:
12:00 Noon & 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.



Pastor: Dr. Freeman S. & Sis. Anna Rhoades

NEW COVENANT PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE



Sunday	Prayer	8:00am
Sunday	School	9:15am
Sunday	Morning Worship	11:00am

Feeding Program Outreach 6:00 - 6:30pm Monday - Friday

Wed:	7:00pm	-	Midweek Service
Mon:	6:00pm	-	Weekly Prayer Night
Fri:	7:30pm	-	Youth Service Night

2156 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAY TACOMA, WA 98405 (253)383-1115

Shiloh Baptist Church

"May God Bless You Real, Real Good"

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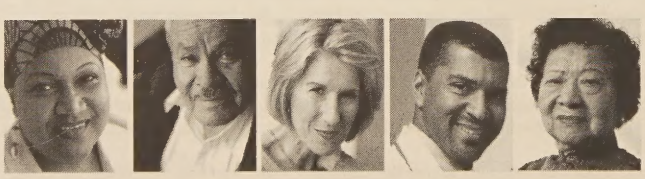
(253)272-4949 Fax: (253)272-0750 Email : sbc1953@aol.com

Early Service 8:00 a.m.
Church School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service 11:00 a.m.
Children age 3-11 & Youth Church age 12-18
High Noon Service 12:00 p.m. (Wed. Only)
Bible Study (All Ages) & Worship Service (6:00 p.m.)
AWANA CLUB (Every Friday) 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (3 - 11)
Youth Late Night (2nd & 4th Friday)

Gregory Christopher, D.Min., Pastor

American culture is a mix of many cultures...



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Pastors Williams E. Smith & First Lady Margaret J. Smith

Sunday Morning Prayer	@ 9:30am
Sunday School	@10:00am
Sunday Worship Service	@11:15pm
Friday Night Bible Study	@7:00

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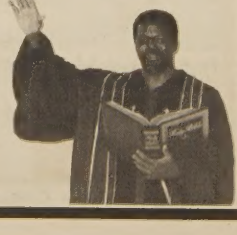
Ministry -An on going service to God and people.

Ministry can be anything from working in the church nursery, volunteering at a homeless shelter or cleaning the pews to teach Sunday School, leading a Bible study or planting churches overseas.

GET ON BOARD!

Join the praise page.
Let Pierce County know where they can get *Spiritually Connected!*
Include your church in the Church Directory
Call For More Info (253) 383-3832



GENERAL ELECTION SPECIAL EDITION

REMEMBER TO VOTE NOVEMBER 6

OUR VOTE COUNTS THE MOST....

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT ... MARILYN STRICKLAND

VOTE FOR MARILYN STRICKLAND TACOMA CITY COUNCIL POSITION #8

Marilyn Strickland

Living in Tacoma should be safe and affordable for all of us.

I believe that our unique neighborhoods should be honored, protected and given the opportunity to thrive. That our tax dollars should be spent wisely, and that our streets and sidewalks should be maintained and repaired. And I believe it's time for Tacoma to make education a top priority because it affects crime, jobs and our quality of life.

Tacoma's future depends on you.

You're about to make some key decisions in August which will affect the direction our city takes. If you agree with me that our neighborhoods should be protected, that our sidewalks and streets stay in good repair and that education is the key to a thriving city, I'm your candidate for Tacoma City Council. Together, we can make Tacoma a more livable, prosperous city.

Marilyn's business experience will have a positive effect on Tacoma.

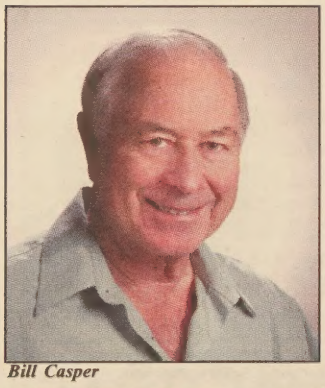
Marilyn has worked for Starbucks Corporate - a Fortune 500 Company, and The American Cancer Society - an internationally recognized non-profit. She currently serves as the Development Officer for the Tacoma Public Library.

And Marilyn knows this community.

Marilyn was raised in Tacoma and is a product of our public school system. She has volunteered on various boards, tutored elementary students, and worked on projects to promote economic development to secure affordable housing.Marilyn is involved in the community through volunteer and civic groups.She is a member of the Black Collective, and volunteers with the KBTC Public TV Association, Werlin Reading, Rotary 8, the YWCA African-American Women's Advisory Council, the Creative Cities Leadership Project, Boys & Girls Clubs and serves on the board at the Grand Cinema. She is a former Trustee of the Tacoma Public Library and was appointed by Mayor Brian Ebersole in 1998.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT ... BILL CASPER

VOTE FOR BILL CASPER TACOMA PORT COMMISSION

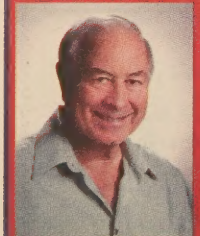


Bill Casper

Bill Casper is a local engineer with world recognition as a leading authority on the latest port and container industry developments. He wants to apply this expertise to help increase the contribution the Port of Tacoma makes to the prosperity of Pierce County residents and to both small and large County businesses. He believes that for years the Port has been self-serving with little regard for their owners (that's you if you live in Pierce County) other than to request financial backing and property tax subsidies. The Port leases container terminals to private companies. These tenant companies earn many millions that go to home offices that are not in the County and usually not in America. Bill's opinion is that county residents and businesses get some trickle down benefits but little else. He is committed to changing the Port's mission to emphasize Pierce County residents come first.

One Candidate for Tacoma Port Commission Offers 43 Years Innovative Professional Engineering Experience Serving the Container and Port Industries:

Bill Casper



DuPont Neighbor, Bill Casper

I am running for Board of Directors in a billion dollar corporation called the Port of Tacoma. You are a stock holder in that corporation. You and Port Management can be pulling together to make your valuable Pierce County asset as good as it can be without an unending need for a property tax subsidy. That's my goal, but my duty is to represent you, not to just be a rubber stamp extension of Port Management. Please visit casperfortpc.com or feel free to call me at 253-964-0386 or email bcasper36@msn.com.

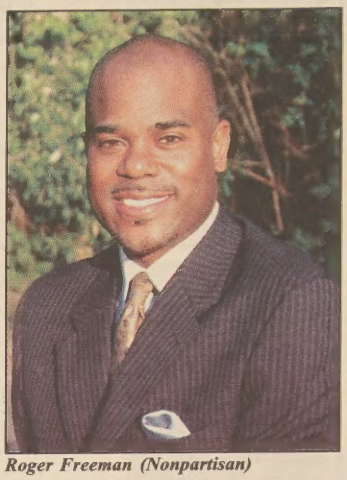
Please help me prove that with modern direct e-contact candidate-to-voter:

- **Elections can be won without promising favors to pay for huge campaign expenses.**
- **Attention to Qualifications and Issues rather than rancor leads to better political choices**

Paid For By - Bill Casper - Candidate

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT ... ROGAR FREEMAN

VOTE FOR ROGAR FREEMAN CITY OF FEDERAL WAY COUNCIL POSITION #5



Roger Freeman (Nonpartisan)

Citizens of Federal Way, If elected, I will use my legal education to refocus government on people. For twelve years, I have represented families in crisis, and have defended the rights of persons who could not afford access to the legal system.
I serve Federal Way as a member of the Human Services Commission, mentor sixty Federal Way youth as a participant in the school district's Heritage Leadership Camp, am a member of the Adelaide Elementary PTA and Watch DOGS program, and member of Christ the King Bible Fellowship. I will promote local business, build support for human services, and advocate for programs to develop youth leaders. I will help establish a city identity and recognizable city center, approve funding for road improvements so that our children who walk to school will be safe from oncoming motorists.
I am compassionate about people, and look forward to representing you.

*Experienced * Leadership * Dedication * Passionate*

Greetings my fellow neighbors,
I moved to the city of DuPont in 1986 and have lived in the same house ever since. I've seen the community develop over the years from a "one-horse" town to the beautiful community it is today. I've been very active in the community over the past 22 years volunteering at city and ROA events continuously, and have served on the Citizen's Advisory Committee in 1987 and in 2002.
It was there that I was inspired to run for City Council by my good friend Robbie Robinson. From serving on the Advisory Committee is when I realized that a growing city such as DuPont would need a dedicated indivdual to continue DuPont's development and growth. In 2004 when I was elected by my neighbors to the Council, Mayor Steve Young recommended to the City Council that I become Deputy Mayor and I accepted the position humbly and it has been an honor to serve in this position ever since.
With Mayor Young not seeking re-election, I am confident that my experience and dedication over the years has prepared me to smoothly transition into the leadership role as Mayor for the City of DuPont. I know the issues, the agendas, the people that work for the city already and have already established relationships with them and other regional leaders that our town collaborates with on a regular basis. This is very important because there will be continuity with me as your Mayor and our town leadership will not have to re-establish or create new relationships with them.
As part of my duties, I have served in the absence of our current Mayor for the past four years while he was away during military manuvers and several other events, including leading the City Council meetings and city business. My familarity with our town's Municipal Code, its inner workings and its staff clearly make me the ideal choice for Mayor.
As a growing city, we have many challenges ahead of us. Together we must work to build a better DuPont Community. My vision is to make DuPont more that just a location. I see our city as a place where families and businesses thrive. The perfect place to live, learn, work and play.
On November the 6th, I am asking the citizens of DuPont to make the better choice for Mayor and elect me because of my experience, accomplishments, knowledge and passion for our town.

VOTING IS EASY

Drop your absentee ballot in the mail or drop it off at a booth. Open 7a.m. - 8p.m. November 2nd - November 6th

Voting by mail couldn't be easier. All you have to do is read the voters' pamphlet, mark your ballot, then drop it off postage-free at any of the drive-up Vote By Mail Express booths located throughout Pierce County.

Or, just add a stamp and return your ballot through the U.S. Mail. The choice is yours.

Vote By Mail Express booth is not for regular mail delivery.

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900 Meridian E
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4811 Point Fosdick Square
Lakewood
Lakewood Towne Center
6000 Main Street SW
Parkland/Spanaway
Bethel Station Rite Aid
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South Hill
Thun Field
16715 Meridian E
Sumner
Sumner Fred Meyer
1201 Valley Avenue
Tacoma
Pierce County Annex
2401 South 35th Street
Rite Aid
1912 North Pearl Street
Oasis of Hope
1926 South G Street
County-City Building (no drive up)
930 Tacoma Avenue South
2nd Floor Lobby (drop box)
Open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
University Place
Green Firs Shopping Center
40th & Bridgeport Way

Elections Division

Tacoma Pierce County Black Collective / Political Destiny Committee

November 2007

Advisory Ballot

State Measures

Proposed by Initiative Petition
I- 960 NO
REF – 67 APPROVED
ESS JRES 8206 APPROVED
SJ R 8212 APPROVED
EHJR 4204 APPROVED
SHJR 4215 REJECTED

Pierce County Charter Amendments

Proposed Amendment No. 1

SHERIFF – NP
TERM LIMITS YES

Proposed Amendment No. 2

ASSESSOR-TREASURER – NP
TERM LIMITS NO

Proposed Amendment No. 3
AUDITOR – NP
TERM LIMITS NO

INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING

Proposed Amendment No. 4
This proposed Charter Amdt. would delay the implementation date to July 2010 NO

Proposed Amendment No. 5
This amendment would specify that with respect to Instant Runoff Voting, a voter could rank by preference only three candidates

NO

Proposed Amendment No. 6
This amendment allows the Auditor to limit the number of candidates a voter may preference rank to at least three unless the voting system can accommodate preference ranking of all candidates.

NO

Proposed Amendment No. 7
MINOR PARTY AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FILING REQUIREMENTS
If passed, the filing requirements for minor party and independent candidates for county partisan IRV offices would be the same as for major party candidates.

NO

Proposed Amendment No. 8
FILING FEES FOR REFERENDUM FILING NO

PROP #1 REGIONAL ROADS AND TRANSIT SYSTEM

Sound Transit (A Regional Transit Authority) and RTID (A Regional Transportation Investment District) shall Sound Transit (a regional transit authority) implement a regional rail and transit system
Sound Transit and RTID
Black Collective.....YES
Political Destiny Committee.....NO

Nonpartisan Offices and Issues Abbreviation: NP - Nonpartisan

Port of Tacoma
Commissioner - Position No. 3
Don Johnson NP

Commissioner - Position No. 5
Clare Petrich NP

City of DuPont

Mayor
Linda B. Cumberbatch NP

City of Lakewood

Council - Position No. 6
Claudia B. Thomas NP

Council - Position No. 7
Walter Neary NP

City of Orting

Council - Position No. 5
Stanley Holland NP

City of Puyallup

Council At Large
Kathy Turner NP

City of Orting

Council - Position No. 5
Stanley Holland NP

City of Puyallup

Council at Large
Kathy Turner NP

City of Tacoma

Special Election – **Proposition No. 1**
CITY OF TACOMA RESOLUTION REGARDING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR ALL
Black Collective.....APPROVED
Political Destiny Comte.....REJECTED

Council at Large - Position No. 7
Julie Anderson NP

Council at Large - Position No. 8
Marilyn Strickland NP

Council - District No. 1
Harold G. Moss NP

Council - District No. 3
Lauren Walker NP

Civil Service - Position No. 3
Denise Greer NP

City of University Place

Council - Position No. 6
Rose Ehart NP

Council - Position No. 7
Jean Brooks NP

Tacoma School District No. 10

Director - Position No. 1
Elly Claus-McGahan NP

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma

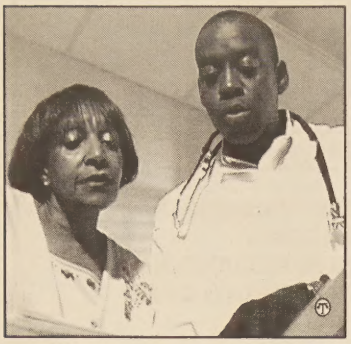
Commissioner - Position No. 1
Aaron Pointer NP

The Black Collective Advisory Ballot to assist the African-American Community with their Ballot for Election Day.

This is in no way an attempt to force you to vote for who the Collective approves of, but more exact to be an Advisory. Each race and candidate is studied by the collective and their platforms are chosen by what is determined to be the best for the African-American Community.

The care and pride put into this document every election cycle warrants your attention

Free Help For African Americans With Rare Or Genetic Diseases



Real progress is being made in developing new tools to diagnose and treat rare and genetic diseases. That's particularly good news for African Americans, especially those who are at risk for illnesses such as sickle cell anemia or thalassemia.

Research also continues to show that genetic factors can play a role in more common diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, which is the No. 1 killer of African-American women.

Because genetic factors play a role in many diseases, the U.S. Surgeon General-America's chief health educator-recommends that people develop a family health history by writing down illnesses suffered by parents, grandparents and other blood relatives such as uncles, aunts and cousins-because a family health history can help uncover which conditions people may be at risk for. That way, they can learn more about how to keep themselves and their family healthy.

If you or someone in your family finds out that he or she has a rare or genetic disease, you need to find accurate, reliable information to learn more about the disease.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has established the Genetic and Rare Diseases (GARD) Information Center to help with this process.

The Center provides free access to information specialists who can answer questions about a genetic or rare disease in clear, understandable terms. Since it was established, the Information Center has responded to more than 20,000 requests for information on more than 5,000 rare and genetic diseases.

Questions come from patients and their families, as well as from friends, health care professionals, teachers, researchers, students, etc., in English or Spanish.

Making Information A Priority

Usually, people requesting information receive a response from an information specialist within four to seven business days-and often even sooner. An urgent request may receive a response within 24 hours or immediately by telephone or by e-mail.

Next Steps...

After learning about your condition, it may help you to talk to others with your disease or to parents who have a child with the same disease as yours. Talk to your health care provider or contact an information specialist to learn if there are support groups available. Call (888) 205-2311 or e-mail GARDinfo@nih.gov. For more information, you can also visit http://genome.gov/17516628 for genetic questions or http://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/ for questions about rare diseases. Research is continuing to prove that genetic factors have an influence on increased risk for diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

Early Detection Of Breast Cancer Key For African-American Women

Although breast cancer continues to impact people from all backgrounds, there are significant differences within the mortality rates amongst racial groups. Thanks to improvements in early detection and treatment, breast cancer deaths among all women have steadily declined since 1991. However, African-American women still have a higher breast cancer death rate than white women even though they develop breast cancer less often. And, while 90 percent of white women diagnosed with breast cancer survive for at least five years, only 77 percent of black women survive for that long. A recent study by the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center gives a possible explanation for why breast cancer is more deadly in black women: They are more likely to have tumors that do not respond to the hormone-based treatments that help many others with the disease. The new study also found that black women were diagnosed at younger ages-an average of 57 years old versus 62 for white women-and with more advanced disease: Only 29 percent had early-stage tumors versus 42 percent of white women. They also had larger tumors and more cell traits that are signs of a poor prognosis.

Recognizing the need to increase efforts to fight breast cancer among African-American women, Susan G. Komen for the Cure is launching its Circle of Promise, an unprecedented campaign to engage women in the African-American community to help end breast cancer forever by educating and empowering themselves and other black women to take action that will save lives. "In the past 25 years, Susan G. Komen for the Cure has changed the world, engaging millions of people in the breast cancer movement by educating and empowering them to take charge of their health," said René Syler, author, TV personality, and Circle of Promise co-chair. "Yet, breast cancer remains the most common cancer and second-leading cause of cancer deaths among African-American women. With this new initiative, Komen will be able to educate millions more African-American women about breast cancer and give them easy actions to start saving lives now."

The Circle of Promise campaign encourages black women to make a promise to take control of their health and to invite other women to do the same. It has three main goals: to get the word out about breast cancer's impact on the African-American community and how early detection and treatment can have a lifesaving outcome; give African-American women the opportunity to get involved in the global breast cancer movement by joining the Circle of Promise and serving as ambassadors within their local communities; and foster relationships within the African-American community that will help increase financial support for breast cancer research and additional community-related programs.

Benefits of Early Detection and Treatment

Getting tested regularly for breast cancer is the best way for women to lower their risk of dying from the disease-see your health care provider regularly and ask which screening tests are right for you. After all, screening tests can find cancer early, when it's most treatable.

Finding breast cancer as early as possible allows for more treatment options and greatly improves the likelihood that treatment will be successful. Many studies have also shown that early detection tests for breast cancer save many thousands of lives each year.

Women can practice breast self-awareness and utilize the following screenings: yearly mammograms starting at age 40 and clinical breast exams every year starting by age 20. Women can also practice monthly breast self-exams as a means to be aware of their breasts and any changes that may occur. It is helpful to keep a personal calendar to record your self-exams, mammograms and doctor appointments, and lead a healthy lifestyle through a low-fat diet, regular exercise and no smoking or drinking.

Overall, mammography is still the most effective screening tool for breast cancer today. To become more aware of your breasts, you can practice breast self-exams once a month. It's a practice women can use to become familiar with the way their breasts look and feel normally so they can recognize changes such as thickening, lumps, spontaneous nipple discharge, or skin changes such as dimpling or puckering-and report any changes they might find to their health care providers immediately. In the past two decades, great improvements have been made in the treatment of breast cancer. As a result, the number of breast cancer survivors continues to increase.

How You Can Join The Circle

Susan G. Komen for the Cure has pledged to do its part to ensure that African-American women are empowered with the information and tools they need to take charge of their own health and serve as ambassadors in their local community.

Here's what you can do to help make sure the Circle of Promise is alive in your community and become active in the campaign to save our mothers, sisters, daughters and girlfriends from breast cancer!

- Join us: Register today and make your promise to take care of yourself and then become an ambassador to your community! We'll provide you with all the resources and tools you need to make changes in your own life and to share lifesaving messages with others.
- Spread the word: Invite your girlfriends, mothers, sisters, daughters and co-workers to join the Circle of Promise. Tell them you want them to join you in the fight against breast cancer's attack on the African-American community before it's too late.
- Be active in your commitment: Continue to fight with us by supporting public policy efforts, helping us to raise funds for research, and by making sure that the Circle of Promise is alive in your community!

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Letter To The Editor ....

Who's Leading This Parade?

With so many wannabe drum majors these days all claiming to lead the education reform movement, it is a wonder that classroom educators can still find the motivation to show up for work every day. First, they have the federal government with its underfunded No Child Left Behind legislation. NCLB promotes the admirable but probably unattainable goal that all students will be proficient in basic subjects by 2014. The goal is unlikely because it is underfunded or some would say unfunded. Nevertheless, the weight falls on classroom teachers to guarantee that this fanciful idea becomes reality.

At the state level, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is pushing the standards movement as if it were some miracle cure. The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) represents another admirable but increasingly elusive trophy. Last May the state started doing the backstroke on the WASL when it removed the requirement that every student would have to demonstrate proficiency in math by 2008 in order to graduate from high school. This shows that it is more important how things look than how they are. Many states are playing games with high stakes testing to ensure that they do not shame themselves in light of their professed goals for students.

Next, local school districts attempt to put even more spin on the meaning of education reform. During its most recent school board meeting (9/27/07) the Tacoma School District revealed another new approach to closing the achievement gap or improving overall student learning. Entitled "Success for Every Student," the new district program promises to support every child's learning needs while delivering excellent instruction and intervening when necessary to ensure that students succeed in their academic pursuits. This sounds compelling but, just as with the state and federal movements, the devil resides in the details.

The Tacoma School Board is proposing a three-tier model of academic support intended to provide appropriate intervention for students at various points in their school lives. These forays are respectively branded "core," "strategic," and "intensive" intervention, and they are all geared toward different segments of the student population. The model holds that most students, nearly 80 or 90 percent, only require core intervention which allows them to be benchmarked in all subjects thrice a year. Then, there is a smaller population, some 5-10 percent of students, who are termed "at-risk" and will require more particular monitoring of their progress about twice a month. Then, there is an even tinier group of students, about 1-5 percent, who need highly specialized targeting for assessment to monitor their progress once a week. The origin of these percentages was not explained, however, the premise underlying the three-tiered model is that every student will get the individualized help they need when they need it.

The details are quite devilish though. Again, the empirical foundation of the model leaves something to be desired. It may be heartening to think that 90 percent of Tacoma's students only require what the model promotes as basic intervention, but it is hard to believe that is actually true. Similarly, if no more than 5 percent of students require intensive academic intervention to stabilize their academic lives that would be great, but it is hard to swallow.

During its meeting the school board revealed that it will soon send a delegation from Tacoma off to Harvard University. A state level grant makes this admirable endeavor possible. The intent is for participants to learn about implementing the three-tier model in a way that magnifies student success in Tacoma. The board will have to pardon African American skepticism, but this seems to be a dubious gambit. No one can fault the honest attempt to secure wide buy-in for a new approach. At the same time it appears to be hard for people to get excited about another bandwagon rolling through town. So far, every group participating in this parade called education reform seems to be leaving a mess behind.

Share your opinions with other Facts readers!

Please Email or Write the Editor, if there is something you would like to express to the editor or the community regarding The Facts Newspaper ,Community News or Issues, Current Events, or Concerned

Please read the following statement before doing so: In consideration of others, please keep your comments concise and relevant to a story subject. Refrain from using offensive, inappropriate language. Because of the large volume of comments, we cannot and will not respond to individual inquiries. Any submissions will not be returned to sender.
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TACOMA ART MUSEUM

Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt has been organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and Tinwood Alliance, Atlanta. Detail: Mary Lee Bendolph, Blocks, strips, strings, and half squares detail, 2005. Cotton, 84 × 81 inches. Collection of the Tinwood Alliance. Photo: Stephen Pitkin, Pitkin Studio, Rockford, Il.

Local support is provided by Helen and Peter Bing, Bratrud Middleton Insurance, and Key Foundation–a Foundation funded by KeyBank.

What's Happening
at the
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NOVEMBER 2007

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11/3 Freighthouse Art Gallery Open House
Artist Reception 1 - 4 pm

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